



NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET (POLICY AND RESOURCES) SUB COMMITTEE

25 JULY 2023

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER – HUW JONES

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected – Crynant Onllwyn and Seven Sisters

Community Councils Minor Projects Scheme – Application from Crynant Community Council

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Members' approval to provide a grant to Crynant Community Council under the Council's Community Councils Minor Projects Scheme.

Background

2. Neath Port Talbot Council has approved a Community Council Minor Projects Grants Scheme in order to assist Community Councils in undertaking minor capital projects. Approved grants are required to be claimed within two years of approval.
3. The Council has received an application for grant aid under the above mentioned scheme from Crynant Community Council.
4. This application is for grant assistance towards the cost of works which will be used to refurbish and improve a well used but worn out, young children's play area in the grounds of the community centre. The sum requested will allow the Council to:

Install a new 3 up 2 down play unit and twister which will remove from the park three pieces of equipment, which have been highlighted by ROSPA as in need of replacement. Remove a trip hazard by repairing and replacing safety surface (wetpour). Improve access by extending safety surfaces to the entrance gates that are not accessible during wet weather, due to the water pooling on the grass making it impossible to access the park in a wheelchair or with a pram, and very muddy when on foot. This is as result of the drainage difficulties from previous, now closed, mine workings.

How will this project contribute to the Council's four well-being objectives as set out in the 2022-2027 Corporate Plan?

The Community Centre is less than 100m from the village shops, dentist and chemist and is therefore well used on a daily basis. Within the Centre's grounds and adjacent to the popular car park is the Toddlers Play Area which is also on the route of many parents taking their children to and from Creunant Primary School. The TPA is therefore a well used and well loved facility. As is natural, over time the main play units have become inferior in both safety standards and quality of design and are in need of replacement. In addition, underlying drainage issues associated with the valley's mining history limit access. The Community Council believes three of the County Borough Council's objectives can clearly be met with the installation and refurbishment.

Objective: To ensure all children get the best start in life.

The units are designed to encourage physical activity and develop overall coordination in the young. The units have a progression of natural physical challenges ensuring continued use and enjoyment.

Objective: To ensure all our communities are thriving and sustainable.

The new units are manufactured to a high standard using proven quality components that ensures replacement will not be required for at least ten years. The groundworks will allow the play area to be accessible across all the seasons.

Objective To ensure our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations.

The units are designed to be educational for younger children by challenging and developing their physical capabilities and promoting self confidence. The groundworks will halt the deterioration of the play surface caused by the surrounding historical water drainage issues, increasing accessibility for children in future years.

The play area is adjacent to the Council's other outdoor community provision which allows a natural progression for a child through play to skill activities such as the pump track to team activities such as tennis or onto the natural environment via our Nature Walk and Community Meadow.

The estimated cost of the works overall is £24,500 Plus recoverable VAT.

The balance of the project costs will be financed from the Community Council reserves

Proposal and Financial Impact

5. The application from Crynant Community Council complies with the conditions of grant and is entitled to grant support at 60% up to a maximum of £12,000 in accordance with the Minor Projects Grants Scheme and payment be made on receipt of paid invoices together with a copy bank statement.

Integrated Impact Assessment

6. There are no impacts in respect of the obligations to the Council under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No 1) Regulations 2015, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and support via this grant is a positive impact in respect of the Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Valleys Communities Impacts

7. Applications for grant are available to Community Councils across the county borough.

Workforce Impacts

8. There are no workforce impacts.

Legal Impacts

9. Grants are provided in line with the approved scheme criteria.

Risk Management Impacts

10. All grant applications are considered on their own merit and in line with the approved scheme criteria.

Consultation

11. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that Members approve a grant of 60% of actual costs up to a maximum of £12,000 to Crynant Community Council.

Reason for Proposed Decision

13. The decision is in compliance with the approved policy and to enable community improvements.

Implementation of Decision

14. The decision is proposed for implementation after the 3 day call-in period.

List of Background Papers

15. Application from Crynant Community Council.

Officer Contact

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